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## SPIES, BALLOONS, AGENTS, CAMERAS AND SABOTAGE, INC.—II

# Why the CIA is called the

## 'Dept. of Dirty Tricks'

By Frank Bellamy  
(Second of three articles)

**SEN. RICHARD RUSSELL (D-Cal.)**, one of the privileged few in Congress to be let in on some aspects of the little-known top-secret Central Intelligence Agency, once said that it is "almost chills the marrow of a man to hear" what some CIA agents are doing.

The Senator, not one to give aid and comfort to the critics of American foreign policy—any more than to critics of segregation—was, if anything, understating the case.

The late Anthony Leviero, Washington correspondent for the N.Y. Times and one of the first to dub the CIA the "Department of Dirty Tricks," wrote (June 7, 1954): "The secret intelligence operation . . . involves more than the mere collection of information; it encompasses action against enemy agents and hostile activities that may range from sabotage to assassination."

In an earlier article (April, 1953) in Nation's Business, Leviero was more specific. CIA spies and saboteurs, he said, "learn to blow up bridges, railroad trains and war plants, (and) are taught to use all types of weapons, both U.S. and foreign."

Nothing in the record in recent years indicates that America's secret legion has grown more gentlemanly. Dirty tricks, it would appear, remain its stock in trade.

**SUPER-SECRET:** The trouble is that CIA operations are so cloaked in secrecy that few know who CIA agents are or how they operate. Few know how and where the CIA spends its hundreds of millions of dollars a year—or even how much it spends. Only a handful of top government officials have access to its reports.

Some idea of its size is given, however, in the fact that it now occupies 30-odd buildings in Washington, maintains 25 domestic offices across the country on a 24-hour basis, and finances unnumbered undercover branches around the globe.

Estimates on how many persons work for the agency range all the way from 8,000 to 20,000. A conservative guess is 14,000 full-time Americans, plus thousands of foreign-born personnel, some full-time but most working on a freelance, "piece work" basis. Estimates on CIA spending range up to and above \$500,000,000 a year.

The agency's \$21,000-a-year, pipe-smoking director, Allen Welsh Dulles, is responsible only to the National Security Council and President Eisenhower—not even directly, to his older brother John Foster, and especially not to the taxpayers whose money he spends.

**NON-TALKATIVE:** And Allen Dulles usually does not approve of the cloak-and-dagger operations against the socialist world—either to brag of its successes or apologize for its failures.



**CIA CHIEF ALLEN DULLES**  
His operations "chill the marrow"

particularly raw bones to light—as when a CIA agent was caught red-handed tapping the telephone by José Figueres, former Costa Rican president, or in 1954 when the Russians found a tunnel the CIA had dug a third of a mile into East Berlin to tap telephone and telegraph wires there. The Russians showed Western reporters how the tunnel led directly toward a U.S. sentry-guarded installation 850 yards on the Western side of the border.

Details of CIA fifth-column activities in Iran and Guatemala came out in a series of three articles in the Saturday Evening Post in 1954. The authors, Richard and Gladys Harkness, had spent a year in Washington where they undoubtedly interviewed top CIA officials. Their articles made it apparent that:

- In 1953 the CIA helped engineer the overthrow of Prime Minister Mohammed Mossaddegh's government. The coup, hatched by Allen Dulles and others at the Swiss Alps, enabled the Anglo-American Oil Co., a client of the Dulles Brothers' former law firm of Sullivan & Cromwell, to collect some \$1 billion in indemnity for nationalization.

- In 1954 the CIA helped arm and direct a rebel invasion from Honduras which overthrew the democratically-

elected government of Guatemala. The CIA saw to it that each rebel was equipped "with a burp gun, a pistol and a machete."

**THE REQUIREMENTS:** In addition to counter-revolutionary activities, the CIA reads other people's mail. Harvard social scientist Harry Howe Ransom said in his Christian Science Monitor article (Dec. 1, 1954) that "the American intelligence branch today is spending close to \$100,000,000 a year for code making, code breaking, and electronic interception of the communications of other governments."

CIA is the only government agency to require every applicant for a job, even the lowest-paid stenographer, to take a lie detector test. According to newspaper accounts, only about 80 applicants of every 1,000 get through the rigid security checks. And according to Ransom, only a relatively few of these go into the cloak-and-dagger branch, losing their identities in strange lands.

The relatively small number of native Americans engaged in direct espionage appears less a matter of CIA policy than a shortage of qualified citizen-spies. Robert D. Deindorfer said in the N.Y. World-Telegram & Sun (Oct. 25, 1958) that "America still suffers from the lack of competent men. Except at the highest and lowest levels, the personnel just doesn't measure up to the job."

To illustrate his point, Deindorfer told of an American CIA agent who went to East Germany on a spying mission. He disguises himself perfectly—"except for one thing. During his three-week swing of East Germany, he had failed to remove his West Point class ring."

**WHO THEY ARE:** To compensate for the shortage of native specialists in intrigue, the agency leans heavily on ex-Nazis and exiles from Eastern Europe and the Soviet Union. The CIA supplies many of these refugees with counterfeit money, arms, ammunition, forged documents and even, in some cases, explosives. They invade Eastern Europe as terrorists and spies, and their identities and dirty tricks remain unheralded unless—as not infrequently happens—they are caught and confess.

Order a law passed in 1949 (the late Vice-Marcantonio was the lone objector).

### Cloak and Dagger: Free enterprise division

**T**HE U.S. GOVERNMENT isn't alone in the cloak-and-dagger business. A private spy group with the innocent sounding name of International Services of Information Foundation brags that it maintains contact with agents around the world and with underground groups behind the Iron Curtain.

The group, which was founded in 1945, has a Polish officer to fly a Soviet-built MIG-15 jet fighter to the West. It is headquartered in Baltimore, its president is retired Colonel Julius L. (Pete) Ames, 53, former chief of the Eastern European division of the Office of Strategic Services. Last February Ames addressed



**BORING FROM WINDOW: NEW CIA'S TUNNEL INTO EAST BERLIN**  
The Russians found it in 1955. No picture in the telephone wire.

a poor spy record for information. It is based on the American agents' claim that many of these former informants are summary characters and some of them of post-War Europe, in which they were acknowledged.

The N.Y. Times' Hanson Baldwin wrote (July 30, 1957) that the CIA "must deal with questionable characters and persons of doubtful morals, with known Communists and with 'double agents' of uncertain loyalty. It is naturally attracts, among its many able men, some who are 'clunks,' others who are themselves attracted by the megalomania of secrecy and quite a number who are out for the ride."

**HITLER'S GENERAL:** One of the most questionable of these characters is Reinhard Gehlen. A lieutenant general in the German Army in World War II, Gehlen directed Nazi espionage on the Soviet front. In 1945 he turned over his spy files to U.S. intelligence officers who found them "invaluable" (Time magazine, July 11, 1958). Said Time:

"Gehlen was flown to Washington and returned to Germany with the secret understanding that he would rebuild his intelligence apparatus and set it to work for both the U.S. and Western Germany."

Back in business at the old State, Gehlen was given the Nazi uniform and under the management Gehlen established his headquarters in the village of Paderborn, near Bielefeld and not far from Dacha

regard a spy-ridden country. It is said, with some authority, that the CIA, and others, are working in Germany. (Time Sept. 11, 1958)

The Times noted that Gehlen, an American agent, was given a "special" passport. Gehlen, it is said, has been giving the CIA between \$1,000,000 and \$2,000,000 a year without his name being figured in the appropriation. Gehlen is said to be working in Germany for a "special" passport.

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Gehlen agents were caught in East Germany in 1953 with plans to blast



railroad bridges and stations, burn factories and assassinate government officials. In 1955 the East German government reported it had arrested 331 Gehlen agents and contacts, seized 15 American-made radio receivers and transmitters, plus arms and ammunition, poisons, incendiary bombs, and cameras, bogus checks, cards and travel passes. And on May 15, 1955, the N.Y. World-Telegram & Sun reported that Gehlen "has been" "never had a hand in the 'German Revolution' against

the East German Government. Gehlen was appointed president of the Federal Intelligence Agency.